

Gay's House  
Maidenhead  
22 May 1852

My dear Sir

I reply to your  
note directly, and assure  
you that I knew nothing  
whatever of the choice of  
members of the Council  
until that choice had  
been made. It was no  
business of mine, and if  
I attempted, unasked, to  
make any suggestion, the  
President would have <sup>had</sup> a  
right to consider it an

impertinent interference. I was not even at the Council when the names of the new members were proposed, having been detained in the country. I am sorry to hear that you, or any other Fellow, want confidence in them; but I do not at all know in what way they have forfeited your good opinion.

They have not forfeited mine, because they have laid before the whole body of the Society a proposition which I, for one, consider essential to its prosperity. On this point there may be different opinions;



but cannot we disavow the merits of the plan without personal animosity? I hope that we can: I will endeavor to do so.

If the scheme be a bad one, why, let it be rejected. I shall not turn recalcitrant & bolt out of the course, ~~merely~~ merely because a majority of the Fellows think that the recommendation of the formail ought not to be adopted. I trust that we shall act like men of sense & men of temper, and then the result will satisfy me, be it what it may.

As for any Committee to be formed to wait upon Lord Derby, I have not heard of

any such intention is consequent  
I am not at all aware of  
what members it may con-  
sist. If such a committee  
be appointed I earnestly  
hope, with you, that the most  
proper men will be selected -  
men who understand that  
department of antiquities  
much better than I can pre-  
tend to do. I remain,

My dear Sir,

Yours very sincerely  
J. Paine Collier.

J. Roach Smith Esq.